



NATALIE S. ROSENBERG
Counsel

206695

Law Department
500 Water Street
Speed Code J-150
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Fax (904) 359-1248
Telephone (904) 359-3100

Writer's direct telephone line:
(904) 359-1253

November 20, 2002

VIA FACSIMILE AND AIRBORNE EXPRESS

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Mercury Building
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
NOV 21 2002
Part of
Public Record



565
RE: Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 11X)
New York Central Lines, LLC - Abandonment
Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 617X)
CSX Transportation, Inc. - Discontinuance of Service
Exemption in Lake County, Ohio

206696

Dear Mr. Williams:

New York Central Lines, LLC and CSX Transportation, Inc. (collectively "CSXT") filed a Petition for Exemption in the above-captioned matter on or about October 11, 2002. CSXT is in receipt of a letter from Carmeuse North America ("Carmeuse") to the Board dated November 14, 2002. In that letter, Carmeuse explains that they are leasing the former LTV facility on the relevant line and that they are considering shipping coal to such facility by rail. Basically, Carmeuse indicates a desire for additional time to assess their rail transportation needs.

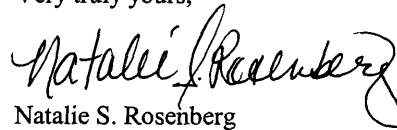
CSXT has engaged in discussions with Carmeuse regarding such needs and is scheduled to attend another meeting with Carmeuse in December. Since at least June 2002, CSXT made Carmeuse aware of its desire to abandon the line absent some guarantee from Carmeuse. Unfortunately, Carmeuse was unable to make any firm commitment. Due to the nature of Carmeuse's property rights (month-to-month lease), CSXT questions whether Carmeuse could ever make a viable commitment. That being said, however, should the Board grant our Petition, CSXT is more than willing to agree to wait a reasonable period upon receipt of abandonment authority to exercise the abandonment. More specifically, CSXT is willing to postpone consummation of abandonment authority for three months from the service date of the Board's initial decision granting such authority in order to give Carmeuse the opportunity to explore all available alternatives and to allow Carmeuse and CSXT additional time to negotiate for continued use of the line. Additionally, the Offer of Financial Assistance process is

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
November 20, 2002
Page 2

available to Carmeuse. In the event that Carmeuse chooses to file an Offer of Financial Assistance to purchase the line, CSXT would be more than willing to work with Carmeuse to negotiate reasonable terms and conditions for the sale.

CSXT already postponed the filing of this Petition for Exemption several times. First, CSXT postponed the filing in an attempt to accommodate ISG when CSXT believed that ISG intended to operate the facility. When CSXT learned that Carmeuse, not ISG, would be operating the facility, CSXT postponed the filing again in order to allow time for discussions with Carmeuse. As such, CSXT would prefer that the Petition proceed with the caveat that CSXT be prohibited from exercising abandonment authority for a period of three months as outlined above. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,


Natalie S. Rosenberg

NSR/pkw

cc: Mr. Alan H. Kruse
Morton Salt Group
123 North Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1743

Carmeuse North America
Attn: Kevin Whyte, General Counsel & VP
11 Stanwix Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222

Mr. Terry McHugh
Traffic Manager
Allegheny Niagara
Post Office Box 1101
Mentor, Ohio 44061-1101